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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of processing image information, comprising the steps of:

5 encoding said image information by a bit plane;
generating an index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;

compressing said image information by truncating
10 the bit planes; and
attaching said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the bit planes to be truncated are determined based on the attached index parameter.

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2. (Amended) A method of processing image information, comprising the steps of:

encoding said image information by a bit plane;
generating an index parameter indexing degradation
20 of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;

compressing said image information by truncating the bit planes determined based on said index parameter; and

counting a number of most significant bits of each
25 bit plane of said image information before encoding;

wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane.

5 3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2,
further comprising the step of predicting distortion of said
image information caused by the truncation of the bit planes
based on said number of most significant bits of each bit
plane, wherein said index parameter contains the predicted
10 distortion.

 4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3,
further comprising the step of predicting a slope parameter of
said distortion of said image information caused by the
15 truncation of the bit planes based on said number of most
significant bits of each bit plane, wherein said index
parameter contains the predicted distortion and the predicted
slope parameter.

20 5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising the step of obtaining an amount of
distortion of said image information caused by the truncation
of the bit planes based on said image information before
encoding, wherein said index parameter contains the obtained
25 amount of distortion.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5,
further comprising the step of obtaining a slope parameter of
said distortion of said image information caused by the
5 truncation of the bit planes based on said image information
before encoding, wherein said index parameter contains the
obtained amount of distortion and the obtained slope parameter.

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,
10 wherein said image information is compressed with JPEG 2000.

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said image information is compressed with JPEG 2000;
and the generated index parameter is stored in a comment
15 marker of the encoded image information.

9. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8,
wherein said comment marker is provided in a main header or a
tile part header of the encoded image information.
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10. (Amended) An image processing apparatus,
comprising:
an encoding unit that encodes image information by
a bit plane;

25 an index generating unit that generates index

parameter indexing degradation of said image information
caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said
image information;

5 a compressing unit that compresses said image
information by truncating the bit planes; and

 an index attaching unit that attaches said index
parameter to the encoded image information;

 wherein the bit planes to be truncated are
10 determined based on the attached index parameter.

 11. (Amended) An image processing apparatus,
comprising:

 an encoding unit that encodes image information by
15 a bit plane;

 an index generating unit that generates index
parameter indexing degradation of said image information
caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said
image information;

20 a compressing unit that compresses said image
information by truncating the bit planes determined based on
said index parameter; and

 a counting unit that counts a number of most
significant bits of each bit plane of said image information
25 before encoding;

wherein said index parameter contains said number of most significant bits of each bit plane.

5 12. (Amended) A method of processing image information, comprising the steps of:

 encoding said image information by a portion;

 generating index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by deletion of one or more

10 portions of said image information;

 compressing said image information by deleting the portions; and

 attaching said index parameter to the encoded image information;

15 wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

 13. (Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

20 an encoding unit that encodes image information by a portion;

 an index generating unit that generates index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said image

25 information;

a compressing unit that compresses said image information by deleting the portions; and

an index attaching unit that attaches said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

14. (Amended) A computer program that causes a computer to process image information, comprising the steps of:

encoding said image information by a bit plane;

generating index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;

compressing said image information by truncating the bit planes; and

attaching said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the bit planes to be truncated are determined based on the attached index parameter.

15. (Amended) A method of processing audio information, comprising the steps of:

encoding said audio information by a portion;

generating index parameter indexing degradation of
said audio information caused by deletion of one or more
portions of said audio information;

5 compressing said audio information by deleting the
portions; and

 attaching said index parameter to the encoded audio
information;

 wherein the portions to be deleted are determined
10 based on said index parameter.

16. (Amended) An audio processing apparatus,
comprising:

 an encoding unit that encodes audio information by
15 a portion;

 an index generating unit that generates index
parameter indexing degradation of said audio information
caused by deletion of one or more portions of said audio
information;

20 a compressing unit that compresses said audio
information by deleting the portions; and

 an index attaching unit that attaches said index
parameter to the encoded audio information;

 wherein the portions to be deleted are determined
25 based on said index parameter.

17. (Amended) A computer program that causes a computer to process audio information, comprising the steps of:

5 encoding said audio information by a portion;
 generating index parameter indexing degradation of
said audio information caused by deletion of one or more
portions of said audio information;

 compressing said audio information by deleting the
10 portions;

 attaching said index parameter to the encoded audio
information; and

 wherein the portions to be deleted are determined
based on said index parameter.

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18. (Amended) A computer program that causes a computer to process image information, comprising the steps of:

 encoding said image information by a portion;
20 generating index parameter indexing degradation of
said image information caused by deletion of one or more
portions of said image information;

 compressing said image information by deleting the
portions; and

25 attaching said index parameter to the encoded image

information;

wherein the portions to be deleted are determined
based on said index parameter.